

Minutes from the WeCAN Meeting held at Westfield City Hall Assembly Room on  
October 27, 2009 at 7 pm.

Disclaimer: I hope you will find these notes helpful. They are not a complete representation of the meeting, but rather the highlights of topics discussed. Feel free to contact me at Westfield City Services Building (317) 804-3002 if you have any questions. -TH

**October 27, 2009**

Agenda

- I. Announcements
- II. Legislation Committee Update
- II. Public Works
- III. Closing Announcements

**I. Announcements**

**New Police Chief**

Joel Rush, the new Police Chief of Westfield introduced himself. He has been Chief for just over one week. He came to Westfield from Speedway, where he served for twenty-one years. He is excited to be in Westfield and welcomes the opportunity to hear from residents.

**Zip Code Issue**

Councilman Tom Smith informed WeCAN of the current zip code issue. The City is working to unify the community by working with the Postal Service to change the more than 3,000 Carmel zip codes to Westfield. The City has recently recaptured \$240,000 of the Food and Beverage Tax money that was incorrectly disbursed from the State to Carmel. Zip codes can also affect 9-1-1 calls. If someone calls and says there was an accident at Marsh in Carmel and hangs up, the dispatchers have a difficult time figuring out if they are talking about the actual Marshes in Carmel or the Marsh that is actually in Westfield at Greyhound Pass.

**\$10,000 Fire Department Grant - [Please put the information in your newsletters or email notices](#)**

Jim Ake provided information on the opportunity for residents to help the Westfield Fire Department win a \$10,000 Grant. A representative from the Fire Department shared what the money would be used for "The money will be used for teaching aides and equipment to teach our kids how to be safe. We really need to improve our fire safety education for kids and more importantly, our senior citizens. Exactly what we will buy has not yet been determined but it has to go towards public education."

The Grants are going to be awarded to the departments that have the most people complete an online fire safety quiz. Please visit [www.BeFireSmart.com](http://www.BeFireSmart.com) and take the short quiz.

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The quiz does not take long to complete, only 20 simple true/false questions. You can only take the quiz once per email account, so if you have more than one email account, then you can take the quiz more than once.

One of the questions asks for your City's name. Please make sure you type in **Westfield**. Then they will send you an email to verify your quiz. Once you verified your quiz, it will ask if you want your result to register for the Westfield Washington Fire Department. Currently it has another option for Westfield. They are going to credit the quizzes assigned to Westfield to Westfield Washington Fire Department and then they are supposed to be pulling down the Westfield only selection. Please make sure publications say Westfield Washington Fire Department.

## **II. Legislation Committee Update**

The Legislation Committee met and discussed the survey results. The Committee sorted the issues into informational and active issues. The informational issues consist of guidelines and checklists that can be given to developers, homeowners, or residents. The active issues consist of legislation or policies that can be enacted on the local, county or state level.

The next two meetings are on Tuesday, November 3 and Thursday, November 19 at 6:30pm in the City Hall Conference Room. The meetings are open so feel free to come and participate, please contact me if you are interested. We will focus on the possible solutions to the issues so new ideas are welcome.

The goal of the Committee is to make a model to share with the neighboring communities who we will meet with in January.

## **III. Public Works**

Kurt Wanninger, Director of Public Works, spoke to the change that has occurred in the Public Works Department. The annual revenue for Public Works has ranged from \$9M to \$20M in the past **six** years. There are some fixed revenues for water/sewer from customers. The variable revenues are developer fees.

The department has been getting smaller but more efficient and still improving services. In 2008 there were 71 employees, currently there are 51. The number of Water and Wastewater employees shows Westfield's efficiency. Westfield has 5 people in the Water Department and Carmel has around 30. The Westfield Wastewater Department has 1 employee for the 4 automated plants and Carmel has about 34.

The Street Department maintains 176 miles, the Water Department maintains 180 miles of water line, and the Wastewater Department maintains 150 miles of wastewater line.

### **Hydrant Flushing**

Hydrant flushing is conducted in the spring and fall. The flushing occurs at night, usually between 10pm-6:30am. The reason for the late time is that less people are likely to be doing laundry at that time. During the flushing process, the water can turn orange as the minerals are being flushed out. You may have noticed the blue reflectors in the road; they identify hydrants. It is both for Public Safety and Public Works. The process of flushing the more than 3,500 hydrants one at a time takes about a month. Click [here](#) for the map.

### **Snow Plowing**

The snow plow scheduling and regulations go through the Board of Public Works and Safety. The primary roads and intersections are plowed first, then secondary roads, followed by neighborhoods. Public Works plows based on four Quadrants. It always starts with the sequence Quadrant 1-2-3-4 for the first snow event. For the second event, the sequence is 2-3-4-1, etc. Click [here](#) for the map. Public Works also plows the trails.

There are 17 Street Department employees but employees in other departments also help out. Public Works has many vehicles available for plowing. Public Works schedules employees around the snow events to avoid overtime. Once the employees are out plowing, they may work a 12-18 hour shift. The only person that may get overtime is the on-call person.

Contracts are also worked out with the County to plow shared segments of roads. The County will plow one shared road and Public Works will plow a different one. Sometimes, Public Works will push the snow on a road and the County will salt the road.

Last year, the City participated in a collaborative salt purchase. The price of salt has been increasing every year, from a recent low of \$37/ton in 2005 to last year's \$76/ton. It would have been much higher had the city not bid together with neighboring communities. Due to the increased cost, Public Works has not been pre-salting as much.

The City currently does not own a liquid salt applicator. The State does use the liquid salt on the bridges in Westfield that span greater than 20 feet. The City is looking into working with Noblesville to borrow their applicator.

Last year during the big snow, the City was the first in the County to finish and even offered services to Indianapolis, which they denied.

The City will put out tips for residents and HOAs regarding the snow season. Keeping cars off the streets is of course the most important. We also have a mailbox policy available because that is the most common complaint.

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### **Trash/Recycling**

Cindy Olson, the new Trash/Recycling [Customer Service](#) Representative, was present to give some statistics on the trash and recycling program. There are currently 8,856 trash/recycling customers. A total of 7,633 tons of trash and recyclables have been collected since January 2009 when the program began. 18% of the 7,633 tons was recycled compared with the EPA's 2010 goal of 35%.

As of last week, the [Fall Leaf and Brush Collection Program](#) had 80 customers signed up. Please view the brochure to find out more about the program.

Please read the [information sheet](#) to find out about the special instructions for the Holidays.

Also, if you want a refresher of what items can be recycled or other information provided to you at the start of the trash/recycling service with Ray's, please click [here](#).

### **III. Closing Announcements**

Our next meeting will be on December 1. It is a combination of the November and December meetings. John Rogers will speak about the first leg of the Grand Junction Project.

Hope to see you on December 1<sup>st</sup>.